

Message Text

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17/50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 IO-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /068 W

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O P 031700Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1078

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIUUYFTY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

DPR WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0474

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDRESSEES)

STATE PASS USIA/IWE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CY TU US UR

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS' FEBRUARY 3 PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: IN FEBRUARY 3 PRESS CONFERENCE, ARCHBISHOP
MAKARIOS EMPHASIZED LACK OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING
UN RESOLUTIONS, ABSENCE OF PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS,
AND DIM PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTION. MAINTAINED THAT TURKEY'S
'GESTURES' WERE INADEQUATE AND LINKED SOLELY WITH EFFORT
TO CONTINUE AMERICAN AID. IN Q AND A SESSION ARCHBISHOP
NOTED THAT, IF 'STALEMATE' IN TALKS NOT BROKEN BY END
OF FEBRUARY, HE WOULD SUPPORT SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR INTER-
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS PROBLEM.

1. IN PREPARED STATEMENT, CLEARLY AIMED AT U. S. CONGRESSIONAL AUDIENCE, MAKARIOS CLAIMED THAT SITUATION IN CYPRUS HAS NOT IMPROVED BUT, ON CONTRARY, HAS DETERIORATED SINCE NOVEMBER UNGA RESOLUTIONS. SAID THERE "ABSOLUTELY NO PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THESE RESOLUTIONS", THERE "NO PROGRESS" IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS; AND THERE "NO FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTION." MAKARIOS ADDED THAT THIS ALSO CLERIDES' CONCLUSION.

2. ARCHBISHOP SAID TURKEY FOLLOWING DELAYING TACTICS WHILE SEEKING TO CONSOLIDATE DE FACTO SITUATION ON ISLAND. SPECIFICALLY, HE NOTED TRANSFER OF TURKS TO NORTH AND HARASSMENT OF FEW GREEKS REMAINING IN TURKISH CONTROLLED AREAS.

3. MAKARIOS DERIDED RECENT TURKISH STATEMENT ON REFUGEE RETURN, OPENING OF FAMAGUSTA PORT, AND WITHDRAWAL OF 1,000 TROOPS. SAID IT A "MOCKERY" TO CALL WITHDRAWAL OF 1,000 OUT OF 35,000 TROOPS A GOOD-WILL GESTURE. TURKISH TROOPS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN, NOT REDUCED.

4. ARCHBISHOP THUS CONCLUDED, THAT WHILE "FOREIGN CIRCLES" CONSIDERED COMMENCEMENT AND TWICE WEEKLY PACE OF TALKS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD, HE COULD NOT AGREE. SAID HE SUPPORTED LOCAL TALKS; BUT PRESENT STALEMATES MUST NOT CONTINUE AND NO "ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE WILL REMAIN UNEXPLORED."

5. IN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWING PREPARED STATEMENT, ARCHBISHOP REFUSED TO GIVE DETAILS OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES BUT REITERATED THAT HE WOULD APPEAL "BOTH EAST AND WEST." DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBLE VISIT TO MOSCOW "IF NECESSARY PREPARATIONS ARE MADE." ARCHBISHOP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SOVIET DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND SAID HE WOULD FAVOR RUSSIAN PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IF PRESENT STALEMATE CONTINUES BEYOND END OF FEBRUARY. MAKARIOS ALSO REPEATED EARLIER THEME OF POSSIBLE RETURN TO UNSC IF NEGOTIATIONS STAGNATE.

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6. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE USSR MILITARY AID, ARCHBISHOP REPLIED "I CANNOT DISCLOSE DETAILS OF MY CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, AT LEAST SO THAT REACTION FROM OTHER DIRECTION MIGHT BE MINIMIZED."

7. ASKED IF HE WAS HAPPY ABOUT LIKELY CUT-OFF OF US AID TO TURKEY, ARCHBISHOP BLANDLY REFUSED "COMMENT THAT

MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN US DOMESTIC AFFAIRS." "MY VIEW", HE ADDED, "IS THAT THE US WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED AID." ASKED BY AMERICAN NETWORKS FOR STATEMENT ON WHAT US COULD DO, MAKARIOS REPLIED THAT AMERICA CAN DO A GREAT DEAL, IF IT SO WISHES, FOR A JUST SOLUTION. "IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH CAN EXERT PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO ABANDON ITS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE AND ITS DESIRE TO IMPOSE ITS WILL BY FORCE." (COMMENT: ARCHBISHOP WAS ASKED BY ABE-TV TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION IN ENGLISH. HE DID NOT DO SO IN PRESS CONFERENCE BUT LATER CALLED ABC AND CBS TO HIS PRIVATE OFFICE WHERE HE, AFTER SUFFICIENT REHEARSAL, REPEATED STATEMENT FOR THEIR CAMERAS. END COMMENT.)

8. ASKED IF GOC IS WORKING ON A PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO TURKS, ARCHBISHOP ANSWERED THAT "I DO NOT WANT TO REPLY BECAUSE OF REASONS CONNECTED WITH A CERTAIN DAY." HE CONTINUED, "WE WILL SHORTLY HAVE CONCRETE PROPOSALS - PROPOSALS WHICH ARE NOT ENTIRELY FAIR BUT TOLERABLE FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS."

9. ASKED FOR COMMENT ON PROPOSED KISSINGER/BITSIOS/ ESENBEL MEETING ARCHBISHOP REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT COMMENT UNTIL MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE. SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT KISSINGER'S PLANS ARE BUT THAT SUCH A MEETING MAY PROVE CONSTRUCTIVE.

10. ARCHBISHOP DENIED REPORTS THAT DHEKELIA SBA WAS ABOUT TO BE GIVEN UP BY BRITISH AND TURNED OVER TO TURKS. ALSO STATED THAT REPORTS OF NATO CONTROL AT BASES WERE UNFOUNDED.

11. FINALLY, ASKED TO COMMENT ON ATTITUDE OF US CONGRESS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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TURKISH AID ISSUE, MAKARIOS REPLIED SMOOTHLY THAT THIS IS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF US; AND THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES "-PARTICULARLY BIG ONES - EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY INTERFERE IN OURS." CRAWFORD

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